

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15136

USIA FOR IBS, IEE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVISTS' VIEWS ON NEWS OF BREAKDOWN IN
MFN-EMIGRATION TALKS

1. NEWS OF REPORTED BREAKDOWN IN ADMINISTRATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONGRESS OVER MFN AND SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION IS APPARENTLY SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGH MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY. EMBOFF TALKED WITH WIFE OF LEADING ACTIVIST AND "REFUSENIK", PROFESSOR VITALIY RUBIN, OCTOBER 7 AFTER RUBIN HAD TELEPHONED EARLIER REQUESTING URGENT MEETING. (RUBIN IS HIDING OUT IN MOSCOW SUBURBS TO AVOID BEING CHARGED WITH PARASITISM BY LOCAL MILITIA.) MRS. BRUBIN SAID MOSCOW ACTIVISTS WERE UPSET BY NEWS SINCE IT INDICATED THAT CURRENT IMPASSE WAS RESULT OF FAILURE TO AGREE ON "QUOTA" (I.E., NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS). SHE SAID NUMBERS WERE NOT AS IMPORTANT FOR MOSCOW JEWS AS GETTING AGREEMENT FROM SOVIETS ON PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY AUTHORITIES IN GIVING OR REFUSING EXIT PERMISSION. ACCORDING TO MRS. RUBIN, WHAT ACTIVISTS MOST WANT IS TO BE TOLD BY AUTHORITIES AT TIME OF MAKING VISA REQUEST WHETHER THEY CAN LEAVE OR NOT, AND IN LATTER CASE REASONS FOR REFUSAL, AS WELL AS INDICATION OF LENGTH OF TIME BEFORE EXIT PERMISSION WILL BE GIVEN. TO TRY TO FORCE THE SOVIET
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GOVERNMENT INTO AGREEING ON A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS PER YEAR SEEMED TO MRS. RUBIN TO BE FRUITLESS.

2. COMMENT: ACTIVISTS' VIEWS ARE CLEARLY BASED ON
SELF-INTEREST, BUT THEY ARE IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF
ABILITY OF ACTIVISTS TO COMMUNICATE THEM TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY AND INFLUENCE THE LATTER'S THINKING. THEY ARE NOW
SORELY DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN LEAD TO
BELIEVE BY AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS AND FOREIGN RADIO
REPORTS THAT A FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT WAS IMMINENT.
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